

MIDDLE SCHOOL FLYER TITLE SUMMARIES

Lock and Key: The Initiation by Ridley Pearson

This first book in a series about young Sherlock Holmes and his famous rival James Moriarty finds the duo and James's sister Moira attending the elite Baskerville Academy. When the Moriarty family Bible, a treasure housed at the school, disappears, both boys are determined to unravel the clues to its theft and catch the culprit. This jealous competition is intensified by Moira's growing fondness for Sherlock. When this young sleuth agrees to help Moira discover the truth about her father's sudden and suspicious death, he realizes that Baskerville Academy holds even more secrets to uncover. A perfect choice for mystery lovers ages 11+ by a master of the genre.

The Secret Keepers by Trenton Lee Stewart

Twelve year old Reuben lives in a rundown neighborhood in New Umbra, a town controlled by a powerful and mysterious figure called the Smoke. Avoiding the henchmen who patrol the city, he finds a pouch containing a unique antique watch with a missing hand. When he begins asking questions about the device, Reuben attracts the attention of the Smoke who is intent on possessing the device and harnessing its magical powers. With an inscription on the watch as a clue, Reuben sets out to uncover the secrets of the device while evading the Smoke and his minions. A stand-alone selection by the author of The Mysterious Benedict Society, this book will be a new favorite of fantasy lovers 11+.

Framed by James Ponti

Twelve year old Florian Bates uses the T.O.A.S.T. – “Theory of All Small Things” – method to solve mysteries that baffle even the professionals. When priceless artwork is stolen from the National Gallery, he and his sleuthing cohort Margaret agree to help the FBI catch the thief, even if it involves infiltrating an Eastern European crime syndicate. They'll do this while keeping up with their schoolwork, playing on an elite soccer team, and investigating another mystery that's very important to Margaret. One of the best mysteries of the year, Framed is perfect for readers age 10+.

Time Stoppers by Carrie Jones

When Annie, who thought she was a nobody, and James, who thought he was a normal kid, find themselves whisked away to the magical town of Aurora, both are in for surprising news. James's father and grandmother are trolls in disguise who plan to eat him on his thirteenth birthday. Annie has the power to stop time, and may be the only person who can save Aurora from the evil enemy known as the Raiff. Filled with danger, adventure, and unforgettable characters of the real and fantasy kind, Time Stoppers is the first book in a new fantasy series bound to please readers 10+.

All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

Excited to attend public school after years of being homeschooled, eleven year old Imogene is also ready to begin training to be a squire at the area Renaissance Fair her family has been a part of for years. This spunky sixth grader soon discovers, however, that figuring out the web of middle school friendships is more challenging than she'd imagined, and learns that the support of family and "fair friends" shouldn't be taken for granted. An authentic look at the real life situations students 10+ encounter every day.

Rising Above by Gregory Zuckerman

Inspirational real life stories of athletes who overcame obstacles to become outstanding in their sports, this book is a must read for young sports fans. Readers can discover the challenges faced at an early age by Stephen Curry, Dwayne Wade, Althea Gibson and others – challenges each faced with discipline and determination to become accomplished athletes. Nonfiction that will both inform and motivate readers 10+.

Wolf Hollow by Lauren Wolk

When twelve year old Betty Glengarry moves to eleven year old Annabelle's rural Pennsylvania mountains in 1943, she brings manipulation and bullying with her. Betty hides her actions from the teacher and other adults in the town, but Annabelle is very aware of these cruel taunts and the newcomer's schemes to cast blame on others. When a shell-shocked World War I veteran who roams the local hills is blamed for an incident, Annabelle realizes she must reveal what she knows in hope of seeing justice finally prevail. An amazing story of prejudice and the courage to face it, the Newbery Honor winning Wolf Hollow is a must-read for age 11+.

The War That Saved My Life by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley

Ten year old Ada has a severely twisted foot that makes walking painful and extremely difficult. Horrified by her daughter's disfigurement, Ada's mother refuses to let her out of their tiny London apartment. When her younger brother, Jamie, is sent away to avoid the dangers of the nightly WWII German bombings, Ada manages to join him and others being sent to outlying towns. Placed with a single woman who seems reluctant to take them in, Ada and Jamie adjust to a life with the potential to change their lives. Will Susan be the savior that Ada has dreamed of, or will her home simply be a brief respite in a life of suffering? A Newbery Honor tale weaving history and hope for readers 10+.

Fast Break by Mike Lupica

A basketball phenom for his public middle school basketball team, Jayson's world is upended when his alcoholic mother's death leaves him alone to fend for himself. When he is caught shoplifting and placed in foster care with a wealthy and concerned family, Jayson's situation would seem to be greatly improved. Enrolled in a rival private school, Jayson, however, must deal with suppressed feelings of anger and betrayal both on and off the court. Can he accept the help this new coach and family offer or will his rage and resentment be his downfall? A story by the best in sports fiction that will appeal to fans of books like The Blind Side, Fast Break is for readers 11+.

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Septys

It is January of 1945 and millions of refugees are fleeing Eastern Europe in advance of the approaching Red Army. Desperate to reach the Wilhelm Gustoff, a ship that can carry them to freedom are Joana, a Lithuanian nurse, Emelia, a Polish teen, and Floria, a Prussian army deserter. Each of these carries hidden secrets which must ultimately be faced. A work of historical fiction based on the true story of the world's greatest maritime disaster, Salt to the Sea is told from the perspective of each of these as well as a German sailor assigned to the ship. A story that every middle schooler should read for age 12+.

The Seventh Most Important Thing by Shelley Pearsall

When thirteen year old Arthur Owens sees the neighborhood trash collector wearing his deceased father's hat, the teen's anger surges and he throws a brick, hitting the man on the arm. When the "Junk Man" proposes that Arthur do community service with him in lieu of time in juvenile detention, the boy reluctantly agrees. As he searches among the neighborhood trash for the seven items that this man uses to create amazing art, Arthur's attitude about this dad's death and his mother's new boyfriend begins to change. Inspired by the folk artist, James Hampton, Shelley Pearsall's coming of age story is perfect for fans of Lisa Graff and Gary Schmidt ages 10+

Bluefish by Pat Schmatz

Eighth grader Travis really misses his dog, left behind when the boy and his recovering alcoholic grandfather move to a new town for work for the older man. Feeling alone and facing attending a new school, Travis is determined to "stay under the radar" and hide the learning disability he has managed to keep his teachers and grandfather from discovering. Velveeta, a quirky classmate with secrets of her own, however, is determined to befriend Travis and discover what he is hiding. Her persistence and the perception of a resource teacher, Mr. McQueen, may cause Travis to acknowledge his inability to read. A book for readers who like Fish In a Tree, Bluefish is a story of friendship and trust for readers 11+.

Serafina and the Splintered Heart by Robert Beatty

The third book in the Serafina series continues the story of the young girl living in the basement of the Biltmore House with her father, the caretaker of the massive estate. Serafina has defeated the man in the black cloak and discovered the truth of her mother and her own identity. Her existence at Biltmore is no longer a secret and new visitors and staff have become a part of her world. Having come face-to-face with a powerful force determined to engulf her mountain home and those she loves, Serafina has fully accepted her role as the Protector of Biltmore. In this third book, Serafina awakes to find herself buried in an underground coffin with no idea how she got there. Using her wit and strength to escape, she struggles to return to the estate only to discover that things and people are not as she remembered. Challenged to once again face and conquer new threats and dangers, Serafina and her story will not disappoint fans of dark mystery and adventure age 11+.